due to rolling down of muck is only 15 Bighas and not 115 Bighas. Damage bills were issued to the user agency from time to time and same were realized during 11/2006, 01/2007, 05/2007 and 10/2007.

(c) In most of the road construction work the muck has been dumped on the designated lumping sites duty approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. However, in certain areas, due to topography and rock formation, some muck has rolled down on the lower side. The area where such incident occurred is almost a vertical rocky cliff, where it is not possible to hold all the muck. Since it is a rocky cliff, there is hardly any vegetation except for some grasses and shrubs growing on the natural crevices. The trees damaged and area affected by the rolling muck has been accounted for by issuing damage bills.

(d) Yes, the inquiry was conducted and the company has been penalised for all the work done in contravention to permission accorded by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

(e) Damage bill as per prevailing market rates of trees and muck dumping along with 100% penalty amounting Rs.1,18,46,866/- has been raised against the user agency i.e. M/s Everest Power Private Limited and the user agency has released the payments.

Eco-system development scheme

3444. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of eco-system development scheme running with the involvement of private people;

(b) the number of projected schemes implemented in the country, especially in Maharashtra; and

(c) the obstacles/reasons for non-implementation of the above said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) There is no specific eco-system development scheme running with the involvement of private people. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme aimed at regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas, through a two tier institutional set-up of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the district level and Joint Forest Management Committees at the village level. There are 795 FDA projects in the country including 47 in the State of Maharashtra.

Construction in non-forest area by Vedanta Resources

3445. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has asked the Orissa Government to explain how the multinational Vedanta Resources was allowed to carry out constructions in non-forest areas in Kalahandi district;

(b) if so, the details of explanation given by the State Government;

(c) whether the said multinational company has violated the norms: and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further action Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Central Government has accorded in principle approval under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 11.12.2008 for diversion of 660.749 ha of forest land for mining of bauxite ore in Lanjigarh Bauxite mines in favour of Orissa Mining Corporation Limited (OMCL) in Kalahandi and Rayagada Districts in Orissa. However, the forest land will be handed over to the project proponent after receipt of compliance of conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval. On receipt of complaint regarding work on the forest land, the Central Government has got the site inspected by its officials of Regional Office, Bhubaneshwar. It has been reported that no work has been carried out in the forest area. It is pertinent to mention that construction work on non-forest areas does not technically violate the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, these activities do not give them any right for clearance of the proposal under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Collective position on climate change

3446. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had delinked from G-77 collective position regarding climate change;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether India had reached any consensus with any other countries for collective functioning in Copenhagen Summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) India is an active participant in the G-77 & China and our approach has been rooted in the group position. However, depending on national circumstances, constituent blocks within the group viz. Africa, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have divergent opinion on few specific issues.

(c) The BASIC countries which include India, Brazil, South Africa & China often coordinate their position on various issues of Climate Change during international negotiations, including at Copenhagen.